

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, PO
SUBJ: EANES MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AT NATO SUMMIT

REF: (A) STATE 059413, (B) LISBON 3249

1. IN ALL PROBABILITY I WILL BE SEEING PRESIDENT EANES SHORTLY TO REVIEW ISSUES WITH HIM BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR LONDON MEETING. I AM SURE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS HE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT WILL BE LOAN PROGRAM, PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN NATO WITH EMPHASIS ON THE FORCE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

2. EANES IS NOT AN EASY MAN TO CONVERSE WITH. BASICALLY HE IS SHY, ONLY OPENS UP IN PRIVATE AND THEN WHEN HE HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN EVERYONE PRESENT. FROM A POSITION OF INITIAL SUSPICION BORN OF THE NORMAL NATIONALISTIC FEELING OF ANY MIDDLE GRADE ARMY OFFICER, EANES HAS GRADUALLY DEVELOPED CONFIDENCE IN US TO POINT WHERE HE IS WILLING TO TALK ABOUT HIGHLY SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. HIS GRASP OF HIS JOB AND HIS AUTHORITY ARE BOTH INCREASING, AND HE WILL PLACE A GREAT DEAL OF IMPORTANCE IN WEIGHING FUTURE MOVES ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE IS A SERIOUS MINDED, HARD WORKING MAN WHO HAS SHOWN UNUSUAL

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DETERMINATION, INTEGRITY AND COURAGE. WHAT HE LACKS IN POLITICAL EXPERIENCE HE MAKES UP FOR IN A STRONG ELECTORAL BASE, ADMINISTRATIVE COMPETENCE AND AN ABILITY TO ARTICULATE CLEAR GOALS AND MOVE TOWARD THEM IN A DISCIPLINED FASHION. IN MANY WAYS HE AND SOARES, THE GREGARIOUS POLITICIAN, COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER.

3. I GENERALLY SEE EANES ALONE. HIS STAFF HAS TACTFULLY LET US KNOW THAT EANES WOULD LIKE THE GROUP TO BE AS SMALL AS POSSIBLE DURING HIS MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. HIS MOTIVES SEEM TO BE (A) HIS BASIC SHYNESS AND RELUCTANCE TO SPEAK OUT IN LARGE GROUPS, (B) HIS PERSONAL DISTASTE FOR PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA (ALTHOUGH HE LIKES SOARES HE FINDS MEDEIROS FERREIRA RATHER STIFF) AND (C) HIS PROBABLE WILLINGNESS TO EXPRESS TO THE PRESIDENT HIS FRANK FEELINGS ABOUT THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE, WHICH WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH MEDEIROS FERREIRA PRESENT.

4. IT IS OF COURSE EANES' RESPONSIBILITY TO EXCLUDE MEDEIROS FERREIRA, AND HE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO, BUT I RECOMMEND WE TRY TO MAKE THE CONVERSATION AS FRUITFUL AS POSSIBLE BY TELLING HIM THAT OUR SIDE AT THE MEETING WILL PURPOSELY BE KEPT TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY. EANES PLANS TO BRING HIS DIPLOMATIC AIDE LUIS MARTINS, WHO SERVED IN THE PORTUGUESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND WHO CAN DOUBLE AS INTERPRETER. EANES SPEAKS LITTLE OR NO ENGLISH.
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